

supervision of Dr. Rabbi Saul Lieberman and Dr. Rabbi Louis Finkelstein. Prior to his move to Albany, New York, Rabbi Silton spent 6 years as a teacher and Education Director at Camps Ramah in Glen Spey, New York and in Palmer, Massachusetts. Rabbi Silton arrived in Albany after serving as Rabbi at Congregation Beth Israel in North Adams, Massachusetts. While in North Adams, Rabbi Silton taught at Williams College and served as prison chaplain.

Already in 1974, the pattern of Rabbi Silton's Rabbinate began to diverge from that of his colleagues. Here at Temple Israel, he began his career as Educational Director for students N-12, including the Communal High School, Camp Givah Director and assistant to Rabbi Kieval. In each of those areas, he actively fostered growth and change. Gradually the nursery school expanded into a full Early Childhood Center, servicing day care needs of pre-kindergarten youngsters and their parents. It now includes Baby and Me, Mommy (or Daddy) and Me toddler programs, and morning and afternoon nursery. The Religious School extended to 7 hours a week and featured a school-wide Israeli Dance Program, which eventually grew to present dance performances in Albany, Boston, and New York City. On Shabbatot and High Holidays, preprimary and primary children in addition to "Juniors" could now attend services especially designed for them. As they grew older, students could tour and study in Israel with double the amount of scholarship aid from generous member endowments and community sources. Adults could now attend class 5 days a week and occasionally participate in Hebrew Reading Marathons; Professor Stephen Berk's lecture series became a most successful Adult Education program.

At Camp Givah, Rabbi Silton founded the Kibbutz Program, inspired the building of Yam Sarah (Givah's lake), the arts and crafts center, and the early childhood shelter. He introduced and developed programs in boating, gymnastics, computers, horseback riding, and Red Cross Boating Certification. For younger children who literally could not wait until next summer's Givah excitement, he originated and organized Camp Horef Katan, a winter camp.

As Rabbi Silton's responsibilities increased, so his avid interest in many other areas continued to expand. He founded Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice and he hosted the first major 3-day national Holocaust conference for 1500 participants in April 1984 at Temple Israel. Since then he has organized a multitude of services for the community Kristalnacht and Holocaust Memorial commemorations, featuring international figures such as Beate Klarsfeld. He visited Germany several times in support of those testifying at war crimes trials, to officiate at an interfaith service in Passau, Germany, and at other events that united survivors and liberators.

Silton's most passionate efforts, however, have focused on Temple and community. In addition to attending to traditional Rabbinical duties at Temple Israel, he greatly expanded the Bar and Bat Mitzvah roles of boys and girls, initiated full reading of the scrolls by women on various holidays, a women's prayer group, Rosh Chodesh benching, P'Sukei D'Zimra, and regular Torah reading; he introduced Birkat Kohanim on an ongoing basis, a hashkamah (early) minyan and a learners' minyan. He also began a daily study program

of Jewish text which takes place every morning. This study program has continued for the past 10 years. In addition, he strengthened the daily minyanim, instituted Yom Kippur dialogues with inspiring international figures, initiated holiday dinners and workshops, organized Hassidic Song Festivals, Cantorial concerts and innumerable Kallot featuring international performers and scholars. Through the efforts of Rabbi Silton, Temple Israel has received numerous awards from United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism including those for: Israel Affairs, Camp Givah, Performing Arts, Community Relations and Israel/Masorti Affairs as well as Education Awards for Programming, High School Education and the Framework for Excellence Synagogue School Program Award. He assisted in the founding of HADAR, the award-winning Judaic Art and Book Center at Temple Israel. Rabbi Silton has also been featured in four books including *The Outraged Conscience* by Rochelle G. Saidel, 1984; *Against the Stream: Growing Up Where Hitler Used to Live* by Anna Rosmus, 2002; *Out of Passau: Leaving a City Hitler Called Home* by Anna Rosmus, 2004; and in a soon to be published book about the Sabbath by Christopher Ringwald.

All of the above mentioned activities attracted the community to Temple Israel but Silton directly involved himself in countless community events as well. For nearly 20 years he directed the Communal High School and taught at the Bet Shraga Capital District Hebrew Academy. When Soviet Jewish immigration was at its height, he supervised the ritual circumcisions of nearly all Soviet immigrants' male children, arranged and officiated at the first Russian Jewish wedding and Bar Mitzvah of these newly settled immigrants in the Capital District. In addition to serving on a host of community boards and committees including the Police Review Board under Mayor Gerald Jennings, he initiated the first Jewish-Latino Seder, hosted the third annual Black-Jewish Seder, assisted the Aviva chapter of B'nai B'rith with the first Seder for the developmentally disabled, discussed Judaism with hundreds of church groups and taught basic Judaism classes and has lectured at area colleges including College of St. Rose, Maria College, Siena College, and SUNY Albany. He also worked with Mayor Jennings on the observance of Yom HaShoah to honor the late Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese "Oskar Schindler". In 1994, Silton built the first mikveh owned by Temple Israel to serve the congregation and the entire Capital district community. The building of the mikveh has been an inspiration to other conservative congregations throughout the country. An article about it will be coming out in the very near future of United Synagogue Review.

On an ongoing basis, Rabbi Silton teaches in the Temple Israel Educational Center: junior high, high school, and adult education departments. Following the Six Day War, Rabbi Silton spent a year of study in Israel with his wife, Faye. While studying at the Hebrew University and the Rav Kook Yeshiva in Jerusalem, he learned to become a Mohel. Ordained in 1968 by the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, he has officiated at thousands of B'rith Milah from Syracuse to the Catskills to Western Massachusetts. Rabbi Silton and his wife, Faye, are the parents of Elana (Dr. Ari) Moskowitz, Michal (David, Esq.) Kahan, Dr. Akiva (Dr. Sharon) Silton, Tamar, Esq. (Jer-

emy) Epstein, Aviva (Ami) Robinson, Nava Silton and Shira Silton. They currently have 15 grandchildren.

COMMENDING THE ADELPHI NEW YORK STATEWIDE BREAST CANCER HOTLINE & SUPPORT PROGRAM

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the Adelphi New York Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program ("the Program"). The Program, established 27 years ago at the Adelphi University School of Social Work, was one of the first breast cancer programs in the country. This highly respected and valued program has developed important services that have been replicated throughout the U.S., and volunteers have been crucial to the services provided. On April 19, 2007, the Program volunteers who have given women a place to turn when faced with breast cancer will be recognized.

The dedicated volunteers and staff of the Program offer crucial information and emotional support to people throughout New York who are coping with breast cancer. Almost all the 100 volunteers have had breast cancer. They know the fear and confusion that comes with the discovery of a breast lump or the diagnosis of breast cancer. Because they have "been there," they immediately provide hope and much more to callers. These highly trained and well-supervised volunteers direct callers to the latest information, sending pamphlets and other resources when needed. They let them know what services are available in their communities. And they are a "shoulder to lean on" for callers. They are there to listen and to help and get people through difficult times.

My office has used the program many times when constituents have come to me looking for help for themselves or their family members. I have been able to refer them to the Adelphi Program knowing that they will be handled with care and concern and given the best possible assistance. In the Healthy Families and Communities Subcommittee, of which I am the Chairwoman, we have explored the need for volunteers and I understand how critical volunteerism is to this Nation. I thank the Program and its volunteers for their work.

TRIBUTE TO MINNIE BELLE
MCINTOSH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, Minnie Belle McIntosh, who celebrates her 100th birthday on March 30, 2007.

Minnie Belle McIntosh has led an extraordinary life. When she was only 4 years old, her mother died of tuberculosis, leaving her and her sister Anne as orphans to be shuttled

between relatives in Mississippi and Texas. Despite this early hardship, the bright and lively Minnie Belle graduated from the Blue Mountain College boarding school and attended college at the Mississippi State College for Women, where she majored in math and physics. Her senior thesis on "The Talking Machines" included correspondence with Thomas Edison.

After college, Minnie Belle took up the only occupation available to an educated woman in that region and became a schoolteacher. The drop in crop prices following World War I hit Mississippi particularly hard, but Roosevelt's New Deal legislation opened up new opportunities for its residents. Minnie Belle became an extension officer; her job was to inform rural families of the best ways to provide their children with good nutrition. Because of her gender, her employment was never stable, and she traveled from Minneapolis to California to Texas to Mississippi to perform her job, but her "people skills" made her an excellent social worker.

During World War II Minnie Belle, like many other women, went to work in Washington, DC. She was employed by the Department of Agriculture, from which she retired in 1972.

Her volunteer work in Maryland in recent years has been exemplary. The Shepherd's Table and The Clothes Closet were founded to feed and clothe the homeless, and Minnie Belle marshaled the efforts of some 50 volunteers. Confronted with a mountain of donated clothes, she used the size measurements from a Sears catalogue to mark trousers and dresses, and she guided the clients with good humor and common sense. The success of The Shepherd's Table in Maryland and Montgomery County owes much to Minnie Belle McIntosh's involvement.

At 85, Minnie Belle moved into a retirement community, Bedford Court in Silver Spring, Maryland, where she turned her attention to recycling. She quickly whipped the residents into shape, creating an army of recyclers, who dutifully washed out bottles and cans, separated paper trash from garbage, and happily signed up to be floor recycling monitors. She and Bedford Court are recipients of more than a half dozen awards recognizing their efforts.

Her greatest asset, however, besides her persistence, is her interest in people and kindness to all. Even now, as she reaches 100 years, she knows everyone's name and story.

On this special occasion, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Minnie Belle McIntosh on her 100th birthday and in recognizing her as a woman of great perseverance, kindness, and accomplishment. I am delighted to wish her a year of good health and happiness and to thank her for her wonderful contributions to our community.

HONORING JOHN HEIBEL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor John Heibel, who serves as a Storekeeper Second Class Petty Officer in the United States Coast Guard. Recently, Mr. Heibel was awarded Baltimore Area Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year.

The Coast Guard requires the recipient of this award to demonstrate pride, professionalism, dedication, and to represent the Coast Guard's core values. Mr. Heibel has excelled in all of these categories, over-qualifying him for this prestigious award.

Mr. Heibel possesses a solid set of leadership skills and he has utilized them in the noblest way possible: serving this country. Throughout his career, Mr. Heibel's leadership skills have propelled him forward. He began as a Seaman Recruit, then moved up to Storekeeper Third Class, and currently serves as Storekeeper Second Class. In all of these positions, Heibel demonstrated a commitment to customer service, setting a respectable example for his colleagues to follow. He continues to challenge himself as a leader by enrolling in Officer Candidate School.

Mr. Heibel has also committed himself to community service, volunteering for several causes and organizations. He has volunteered for the Fort Meade Turkey Donation, helping to prepare turkey dinners for low-income families in the Baltimore area. Heibel also served as a unit Morale representative and organized a series of Morale events. He planned a picnic at a Baltimore Orioles game which featured the ELC color guard in the opening ceremony. Heibel coordinated a private viewing of the movie "The Guardian," an event which produced a significant turn-out. He also helps to fundraise by selling raffle tickets and concessions at Coast Guard softball games.

Mr. Heibel's accomplishments extend into the classroom as well. After earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Heibel has decided to continue his education by pursuing a master's degree. He has enrolled in and completed a series of challenging courses such as Business Calculus and Intermediate Accounting.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today in honoring John Heibel. This outstanding individual will never stop challenging himself and his record of success demonstrates that there is no limit to all he can achieve. Mr. Heibel's aspiration for knowledge, strides as a leader, and service to his country all prove that he is worthy of recognition. Let his outstanding accomplishments serve as an example to us all as we work to improve our communities and our country.

A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND DR. M. JWAHIR BRATHWAITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite. Dr. Brathwaite is a graduate of the Howard University School of Business and Public Administration, the Howard University Graduate School of Divinity, and the United Theological Seminary. She has also received educational certification from the University of Dayton.

Dr. Brathwaite serves the community as an associate pastor at the Stuyvesant-Heights Christian Church in Brooklyn, New York. Ordained at the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in 1997, Dr. Brathwaite is a Professor of Religious Studies and Holistic Health and

Wellness at the College of New Rochelle's School of New Resources at both the Brooklyn and Harlem Campuses.

Dr. Brathwaite has been a fitness-professional for more than 25 years. She has worked with the YMCA in Brooklyn, New York, Washington, DC, and Memphis, Tennessee. She presently serves her community through the YMCA Bedford-Stuyvesant Branch.

In addition to teaching for the College of New Rochelle, Dr. Brathwaite has taught fitness health and wellness for Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, Shelby State Community College, and the University of Memphis in Tennessee. Dr. Brathwaite has trained International Dance and Exercise Association instructors and several others who have gone on to teach at places such as: the New York State Conservatory Police, colleges and universities, family fitness ministries, and numerous other fitness facilities.

Dr. Brathwaite is the president and founder of Family Fitness Ministries, a ministry focusing on fitness and wellness for churches and their communities. Dr. Brathwaite's training roster includes: Author Zora Neal Hurston; the internationally acclaimed singing group Sweet Honey in the Rock; late film, stage, and television actress Rosland Cash; and a host of Fortune 500 Company professionals.

A Christian broadcaster for more than 20 years, Dr. Brathwaite has carried the healing message of God throughout the community through public speaking and outreach. The world of Christian Broadcasting afforded her the opportunity to work with the National Association of Broadcasters' number one religious radio organization in the country, Salem Communications Corp. She also worked with A&M Records where she represented such gospel recording artists as: Richard Smallwood; Al Green; the Clark Sisters; Reverend Shirley Caesar; Rosie Grier; and Sweet Honey in the Rock.

Dr. Brathwaite has been recognized numerous times for her community involvement and leadership. She has received awards from the National Council of Negro Women, Inc., the Ford Foundation, Outstanding Women of America, John Burroughs Elementary School, and the International Who's Who of Professional Business Women just to name a few.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize this pillar of our community the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite for all that she has accomplished.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Reverend Dr. M. Jwahir Brathwaite.

COMMENDING JACOB WEST

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jacob West of Marcus High School for his recognition as a 2007 Presidential Scholar.

The Presidential Scholar Commission honors up to 121 graduating seniors each year for outstanding academic achievement. This award is one of our Nation's highest for high school students. Jacob is being honored as a Presidential Scholar for his exceptional performance on the SAT.